

Perceptions of Tobacco Policies from National Social Fraternities & Sororities

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INTRODUCTION

- ~25%-33% of college students report past month smoking¹
 - College years are a critical period for health risk behaviors²
- Fraternities and sororities may play an important role in the development and reinforcement of social norms on tobacco use

OBJECTIVE

- Assess Greek letter organizations' policies at the national level regarding:
 - Policies banning tobacco use, indoor and/or outdoor areas
 - Perceptions about tobacco-free policies

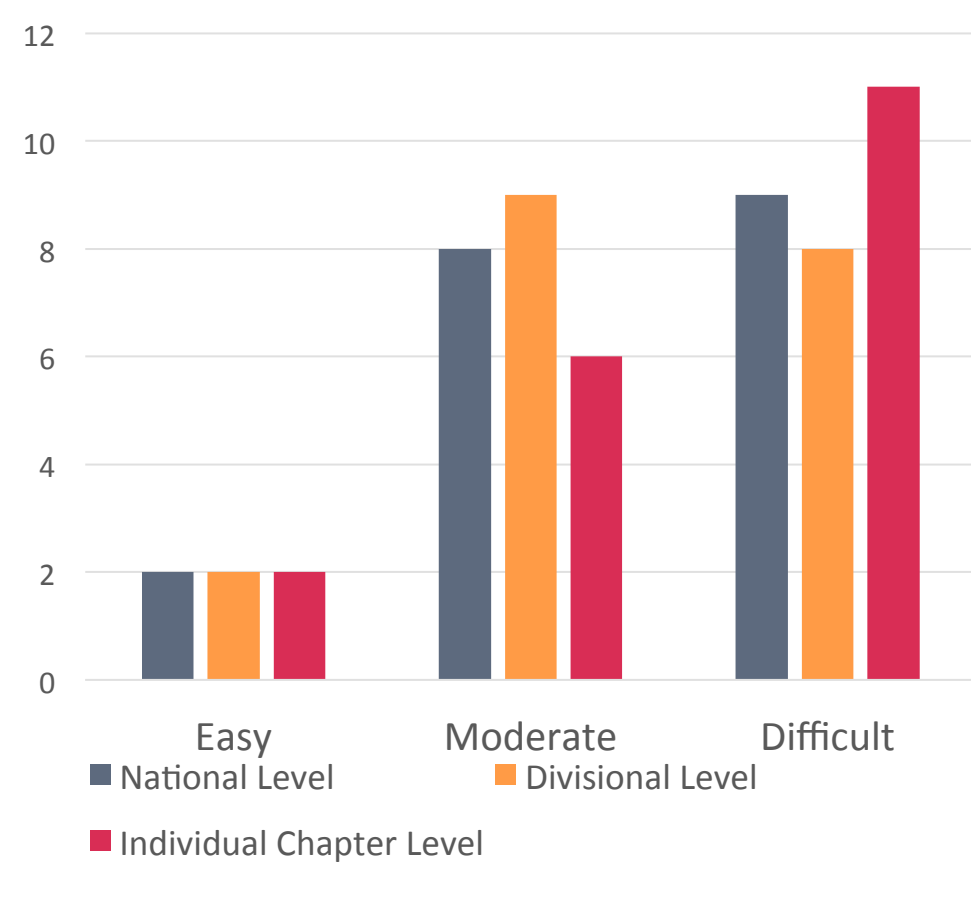
METHODS

- 135 social fraternities or sororities identified
- Web-based survey on:
 - Prevalence of tobacco-specific restrictions
 - Benefits and barriers to tobacco policies
 - Difficulty of instituting a policy at various organizational levels
 - Future policy intentions
- Recruitment via email during August/September 2014

Table 1: Demographics of organizations (n=21)

Demographics		
Fraternity		71.4%
Historical Designation	African American	4.8%
	Asian	14.2%
	Latino	9.5%
	Literary Society	4.8%
	No designation	66.7%
No tobacco policy		95.2%

Figure 1: Perceived difficulty of instituting a tobacco policy at various organizational levels



RESULTS

- 21 organizations responded (15.6% response rate)
- Most (95.2%) organizations reported no tobacco policy restrictions
- Biggest barrier to a policy was the perception of not having enforcement capabilities (78.9%)

- Restricting tobacco is not one of their priorities (73.7%) or their responsibilities (68.4%)
- No fraternities or sororities reported a policy that specifically prohibits tobacco.

CONCLUSIONS

- Efforts to encourage tobacco-free policies for fraternity and sorority should target educating national leaders on:
 - Tobacco health impacts on members
 - Positive policy benefits on members, chapters

REFERENCES

1 Rigotti NA, Lee JE, Wechsler H. US college students' use of tobacco products: results of a national survey. JAMA. 2000;284(6):699-705.

2 Wechsler H, Kelley K, Seibring M, Kuo M, Rigotti NA. College smoking policies and smoking cessation programs: results of a survey of college health center directors. J Am Coll Health. Mar 2001;49(5):205-212.